episode:30

AGE & MAKIJIMA AZUSA
ENGLISH TRANSLATED AND EDITED BY TONIGOBE
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THIS IS A FREE FAN TRANSLATION
PLEASE SUPPORT THE ARTIST IF IT'S WITHIN YOUR MEANS

YOUR HIGHNESS
I HAVE BROUGHT BACK SHIROGANE TAKERU WITH ME
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK, KAMIYO
SHIROGANE
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE ...HERE
I WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU A LITTLE BEFORE THE TIME CAME
BECAUSE I AM HELPLESS AT THIS TIME
I REGRET THAT... I HAVE LET YOU CADETS BEAR THE FULL BRUNT OF THE WORK
NO WAY... BECAUSE THIS IS A MISSION OF THE U.N. ARMED FORCES
IT'S A NATURAL THING
... ...
IS IT ... NATURAL ?
EH ?

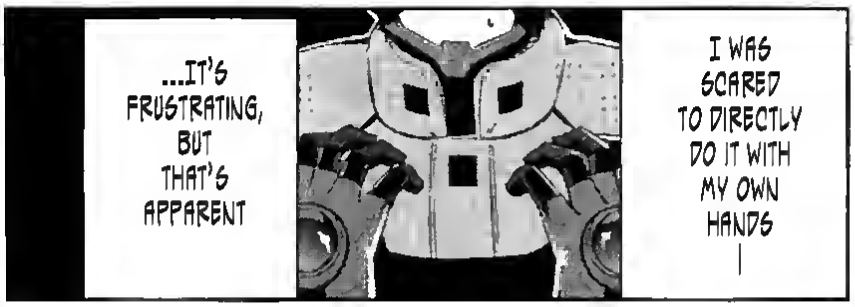
YOUR SUPERIOR TACTICAL MACHINE PILOTING SKILL ...
IT IS RARE FOR SOMEONE TO COMPARE EQUALLY WITH THE REGULAR SOLDIERS OF THE U.N. MILITARY
IT'S SOMETHING THAT SHOULD ORIGINALLY BE PUT TO ESSENTIAL USE ELSEWHERE, MORESO THAN HERE
...DON'T YOU THINK SO ?
...THAT'S ...
THERE ARE SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS HERE THAT OTHER OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL OF THE U.N. AND U.S. MILITARY MAY BE ABLE TO USE
THESE ARE THINGS THAT SHOULD BE ORIGINALLY USED AGAINST MANKIND'S MORTAL ENEMY, THE BETA...
!
...DON'T YOU THINK IT'S REGRETTABLE THAT THESE THINGS... ARE BEING LOST IN SUCH A FASHION ?
... ...
HER HIGHNESS ...? BY CHANCE |
DOES THE JAPANESE HEAD OF STATE HOLD A SIMILAR OPINION AS ME ...?
... ...
I'VE... BEEN CONSTANTLY THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR SOME TIME

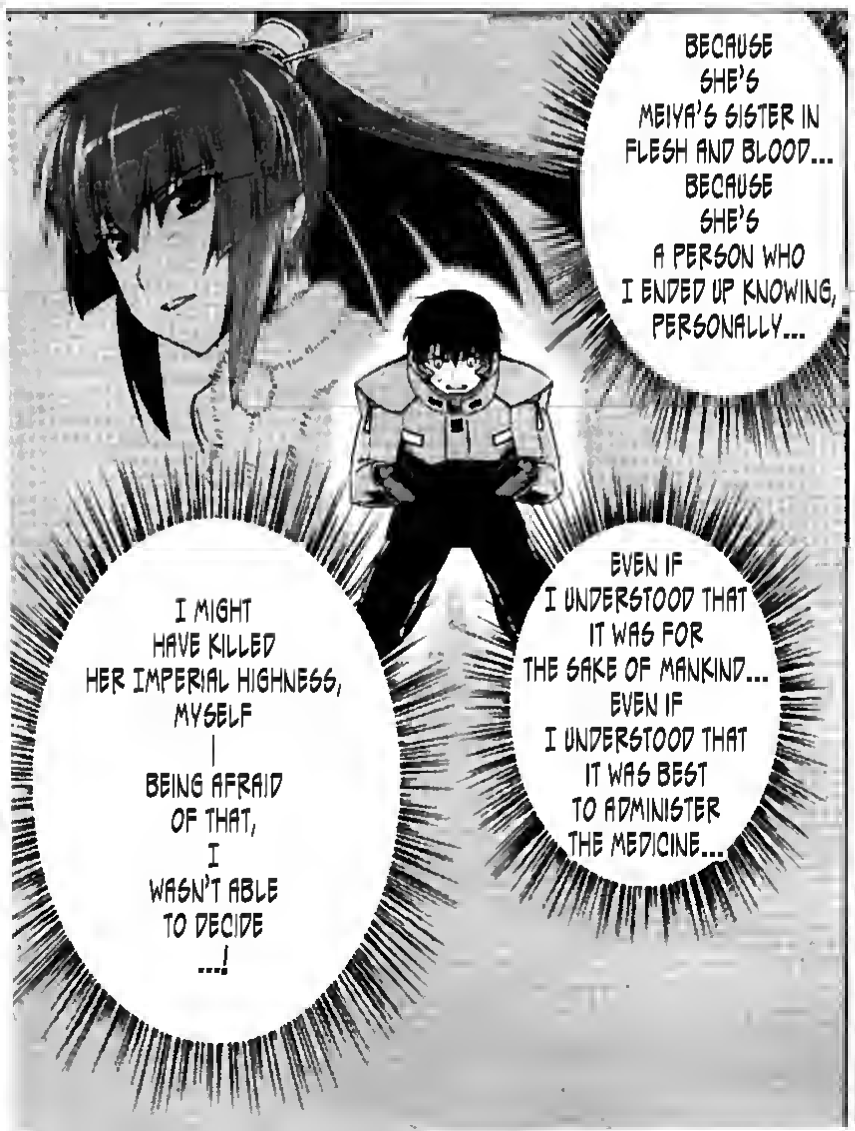
WHY... DID YOU HESITATE
TO ADMINISTER THE TRIAZOLAM THAT TIME
...!?
DO YOU EVEN THINK THAT A MERE COMMANDING OFFICER IS GRANTED THE AUTHORITY
TO ADMINISTER ...A DRUG WITH A DANGEROUS SIDE EFFECT TO THE HEAD OF ANOTHER COUNTRY?
WHY IS ... HER HIGHNESS BRINGING THIS UP ...?
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE LIVES OF BOTH ENEMIES AND ALLIES LOST DURING THE 10 MINUTE RESTING PERIOD THAT YOU PROPOSE, LIEUTENANT!?
THOSE ARE LIVES THAT SHOULD PRIMARILY BE FIGHTING MANKIND'S ARCH-ENEMY, THE BETA!!
OF ALL THINGS TO DISCUSS, THE PART WHERE I HESITATED THE MOST ...!
...
SHIROGANE ...
BECAUSE YOU HAVE THAT GREAT TALENT
YOU WILL LIKELY STAND ABOVE (LEAD) OTHERS, ONE DAY...

EH ...
ME ... ABOVE OTHERS —!?
STANDING ABOVE OTHERS MEANS... ASSUMING MUCH RESPONSIBILITES
IT MEANS YOU MUST HAND DOWN MANY DECISIONS
IF NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS DIFFER ON THE GROUNDS THEY STAND UPON
THEIR IDEALS AND BELIEFS WILL DIFFER, INDIVIDUALLY...
— IT'S THE SAME FOR PEOPLE, TOO
WHEN TRYING TO ESTABLISH SOMETHING, THERE ARE ALWAYS THOSE WHO TRY TO DO GOOD, AND THOSE WHO TRY TO DO BAD
...
HOWEVER... WHEN YOU LOOK AT THINGS, STANDING IN EACH RESPECTIVE POSITION
YOU CAN SEE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS EACH OF THEM TRY TO SUPPORT, DON'T YOU THINK
AND ... IT'S A SAD THING, BUT
THE WAY (METHOD / PATH) THAT FULFILLS THE DESIRES OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE
MAY NOT ALWAYS BE THERE IN FRONT OF YOU —

IT WAS BACK WHERE WE BEGAN, EVEN FOR ME...
THAT ... I UNDERSTAND ...
AT THAT TIME, WHAT SORT OF PATH YOU INDICATE FOR THOSE PEOPLE DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU DECIDE, I SUPPOSE
I EVEN POSSESSED THE CONVICTION... THE DETERMINATION TO SAVE THE HUMAN RACE, YOU KNOW!
BUT... EVEN SO, I BALKED AT A CRUCIAL MOMENT ...!
AS I LOOK BACK ON WHERE WE BEGAN... YOU POSSESSED THE COURAGE TO STOP
AT THAT TIME, IF YOU HAD HESITATIONS
SULLYING YOUR OWN HANDS ...
AND YOU MUST NOT BEGRUDGE
!?

SULLYING... MY OWN HANDS...
THE PERSON WHO TRIES TO SHOW THE WAY... MUST NOT TURN AWAY
FROM THE RESPONSIBILITY HE MUST BURDEN


...IT'S FRUSTRATING, BUT THAT'S APPARENT
I WAS SCARED TO DIRECTLY DO IT WITH MY OWN HANDS


BECAUSE SHE'S MEIYA'S SISTER IN FLESH AND BLOOD... BECAUSE SHE'S A PERSON WHO I ENDED UP KNOWING, PERSONALLY...
I MIGHT HAVE KILLED HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS, MYSELF | BEING AFRAID OF THAT, I WASN'T ABLE TO DECIDE ...!
EVEN IF I UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS FOR THE SAKE OF MANKIND... EVEN IF I UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS BEST TO ADMINISTER THE MEDICINE...

...EVEN IF I ENTRUSTED MYSELF TO THE FLOW OF EVENTS AT THAT TIME
I COULD NOT EVEN ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY OWN DEATH
THE FACT IS I CONCLUDED THAT THE PRESCRIPTION OF TRIAZOLAM WAS BEST ACCORDING TO WHAT I BELIEVED WAS "CORRECT"

...
...
THAT IS SIMPLY ALL I HAD TO SAY
AS WE ARE AT REST, IT WAS A JUST AND MORAL CAUSE
...
THAT IS ALL... YOU MAY GO, NOW
HOW ... SELFISH OF ME ...
EVEN IF I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL HER HIGHNESS, IT WASN'T A SENSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS... I SIMPLY DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE THE REPONSIBILITY MYSELF, AND NOTHING MORE
!
IS THERE SUCH A THING WHERE A GUY WHO CAN'T TAKE A RISK ISN'T ABLE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY !?
SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY, ISN'T THERE ?
...THERE IS
... ...
WHAT'S WRONG ...? YOU MAY LEAVE ALREADY, YOU KNOW ?
THIS ISN'T THE SORT OF SUBJECT... TO DISCUSS WITH HER HIGHNESS ...
NO ... THERE ISN'T ...
...

...
...
SHIROGANE ... DO NOT LIE
YOU — DESPISE ME, DO YOU ?
EH ...? N- NO... IT'S NOTHING LIKE...
YOU HAVE SUCH A GRIM LOOK ON YOUR FACE
AND YOU'RE TELLING ME ... IT'S NOTHING ?
...!
ARE YOU RELUCTANT ... BECAUSE OF ME ?
... ...
...
WELL THEN ... IF YOU INSIST —
...
THAT'S ...

I'VE BECOME VERY INTIMATE WITH "THIS WORLD"... THAT...
I'M ALLOWED TO HAVE SUCH A DISCUSSION WITH THE SHOGUN...
IT... MAY BE STRANGE FOR A CADET OF THE U.N. FORCES TO SAY SUCH A THING, BUT ...
AS A JAPANESE PERSON, THAT STUFF I GUESS YOU CALL PATRIOTISM ... DOESN'T SEEM WORTH IT TO ME ...
TO ME ... THERE'S SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT
...AND THAT IMPORTANT THING IS — ?
WE WILL DISCOVER... WHY CAPTAIN SAGIRI IS TRYING TO CHANGE JAPAN BY HAVING THIS INSURGENCE
BUT — TO HAVE SUCH A THING, NOW... I DON'T GET IT
... ...
IT'S NICE TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF JAPAN
BUT, ISN'T THAT A DISCUSSION TO HAVE AFTER THE BETA ARE BEATEN DOWN ?
THE SAME THING THAT YOUR HIGHNESS MENTIONED EARLIER
ALL OF MANKIND'S FORCES SHOULD BE USED TO DEFEAT THE BETA — THAT THING
... ...

I DOUBT THAT THE HUMAN RACE CAN AT LEAST DEFEAT THE BETA IN SOLIDARITY ...!
AND YET — WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES, WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE MOTIVES, DOING AS THEY PLEASE ...
...THAT IS TRUE, HUH
— THAT'S SOMETHING EVEN A CHILD CAN UNDERSTAND, RIGHT !?
IF THE HUMAN RACE LOSES, THERE WON'T BE ANY FUTURE FOR JAPAN, TOO
DESPITE THAT, EVERYONE SHOULD REALIZE ...
HOW REAL AND HOW LIKELY MANKIND'S DEFEAT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE ...!

YOU ALL SERIOUSLY CAN'T IMAGINE ...
WHAT IT MEANS TO LOSE TO THE BETA ...
WHAT HAPPENS TO MANKIND ...TO THE EARTH, WHEN THAT HAPPENS ...!
SHIROGANE ... YOU SHOULD CALM DOWN A LITTLE
AH ...
I-... I'M SORRY ! I ENDED UP GRUMBLING ...
SOMEHOW... I FEEL JUST A BIT AT EASE
IT'S THAT, I GOT SOMEONE TO HEAR ME OUT... THAT'S NOT SOMETHING TO TAKE LIGHTLY, UNNECESSARILY...

ONE THING I MAY ASK
WHY DO YOU BELIEVE PATRIOTISM IS NOT ENOUGH ?
... ...
YOU PROBABLY KNOW THIS, BUT —
...SINCE I CAME HERE FROM "THIS WORLD PRIOR"
I DIDN'T HAVE TO SPIT OUT WHAT I WAS THINKING THAT WAY, DIDN'T I...
IN MY UNIT, ALL THE MEMBERS' SITUATIONS ARE UNCOMMON
EVERYONE IN THE UNIT IS DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH THIS COUNTRY, INDIRECTLY
BEING CLOSE TO THEM... I FEEL THEIR DEEP SENTIMENTS TOWARDS THE COUNTRY CALLED JAPAN AND THE JAPANESE PEOPLE ...

NAOYA ONII-CHAN !
... WELCOME BACK
ARE YOU SETTING TOU-SAN (FATHER/DAD) ASIDE ? I'M LONELY
WHAT'S THIS, KEI... I COME BACK HOME AFTER BEING GONE A WHILE, AND YET...
THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THAT MAN'S FAMILY AND MINE GOES WAY BACK
WE WERE BROUGHT UP, IN PART, JUST LIKE BROTHER AND SISTER

THERE'S A BATTLE THERE... AND WE'RE GOING IN ORDER TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE EVACUATE SAFELY
...SO, DON'T WORRY
WE'RE NOT HEADING TO THE PENINSULA TO FIGHT
HOWEVER, FOR THAT MAN, FOR MY FATHER, AND MY MOTHER...
THE LIEUTENANT-GENERAL... AND I
WE'LL DEFINITELY COME BACK ALIVE
... WE'LL BE HEADING OFF
AND FOR ME, TOO... EVERYTHING HAD CHANGED AT THE TURNING POINT OF ONE EVENT
YEAH ...
I'LL BE WAITING
... ...
BECAUSE THAT EVENT INVOLVED SO MANY PEOPLE, IT SUBSEQUENTLY ENDED UP BEING CALLED THAT
"THE TRAGEDY OF THE GWANGJU MISSION"

HOW ...
...COME...?
SERIOUS DAMAGE TO U.N. FORCES
TRAGEDY DURING EXAMINATION
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AYANIWE HELD RESPONSIBLE
DESERTION DURING ENEMY FIRE?
CHANG-JU U.N. FORCES COMMAND SURRENDERS

YOU'RE WRONG... THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SOLD THE LIEUTENANT-GENERAL OUT TO SAVE THEIR OWN SKINS! THOSE GUYS ARE THE ONES WHO SHOULD BE BLAMED!
AND HE LOST VALUABLE MILITARY WEAPONRY! OF COURSE HE'LL BE TRIED!
HE'S A DISGRACE TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE! YOU SHOULD SPARE YOURSELF THE TROUBLE!
IF THAT MAN DIDN'T COME AND SAVE US... WE WOULD ALL BE DEAD...
OTHERWISE, IT SETS A BAD EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD
THINK ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE DIED BECAUSE OF THAT MAN!!

STOP IT, ALREADY! (GASP)!
STOP IT...
...
...I'M SORRY...
CRUMPLE!
...!
AH!
...!
NAO-... YA...!

WHY... IS IT LIKE THIS ...
...

I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS SORT OF OUTLOOK OF MINE SEES THE LONG-TERM SCHEME OF THINGS, OR I SEE IT AS SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM, PERHAPS... WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT
THAT'S WHY THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM (THE GIRLS / WOMEN) AND ME, WHERE PARTS OF OUR FUNDAMENTAL SYMPATHIES LIE, ISN'T THERE...

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO DO SUCH THINGS... I MEAN, THAT'S MY OPINION
I'M TOLD THAT I HAVE AMERICAN LEANINGS

YOU BELIEVE ... THAT DIFFERENCE IS PATRIOTISM, RIGHT ?
... ...

...YES
ALTHOUGH IT'S INDIRECT ... THOSE GIRLS HAVE CLOSE TIES WITH THIS COUNTRY, JAPAN
AND THOSE TIES ARE LIKELY RELATED TO THE STRENGTH OF THAT PATRIOTISM ...
BUT, I CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND HOW HER HIGHNESS WOULD LUMP IT ALL TOGETHER AND CALL IT "PATRIOTISM"...
..."FAITH," "CONVICTION," OR "POINT OF VIEW," IT DOESN'T MATTER

THIS IS MEIYA'S PERSONAL INFORMATION, RIGHT ? DIDN'T SHE HEAR ABOUT IT FROM TSUKUYOMI-SAN ?
LET'S SEE ...
IT'S NOT LIKE MEIYA EXPLAINED IT TO ME IN THAT CONTEXT, BUT

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY... CLOSE TIES WITH THIS COUNTRY ?
EH ?

THAT'S NOT ALL
...THERE'S THE DAUGHTER OF PRIME MINISTER SAKAKI, TOO... THE MAN WHO WAS MURDERED THIS MORNING
...!

HOW ...
CERTAINLY, ONLY THOSE WHO HOLD AN UNUSUAL FATE IN THIS CURRENT SITUATION...
PLUS, THERE'S SECTION CHIEF YOROI'S DAUGHTER, TOO
BESIDES HER, THERE'S THE DAUGHTER OF UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL TAMASE AND THE DAUGHTER OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL AYAMINE

THAT... WOULD BE NATURAL, IT SEEMS
BUT, EVEN SO, THE FACT IS, OUR UNIT IS OPERATING AND MOVING UPRIGHT AND FORWARD
BECAUSE SOMETHING THAT THE GIRLS HAVE, LIKE THIS "PATRIOTISM" THING, IS STRONG, ISN'T IT
...THAT IS SO, I SUPPOSE ...
FOR HER TO BE THIS SURPRISED... SHE REALLY MUST NOT KNOW ABOUT OUR UNIT...
UNDER THIS PRESENT SITUATION, BECAUSE EACH OF THEM HOLDS THIS SORT OF DEEP CONNECTION... IT SEEMS MUTUALLY DIFFICULT AND VERY AWKWARD FOR THEM...
YOUR HIGHNESS ?
... ...
SHIROGANE I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU
PLEASE ... GATHER EVERYONE HERE

SALUTE !!!
TO HER HIGHNESS, KOUBUIN YUUHI ...
I APOLOGIZE FOR HAVING EVERYONE SUMMONED... ON AN URGENT SITUATION LIKE THIS
MAJOR WALKEN

BEING THAT OUR COUNTRY'S PRESENT CHAOS ...
TO THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES... AND TO ALL THE OFFICERS IN THE UNITED STATES FORCES WHO ARE IN THIS PLACE
AS JAPAN'S SHOGUN, AS THE PERSON ENTRUSTED WITH THE COUNTRY
I WISH TO EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE ...
SLOWLY...
ORIGINATES COMPLETELY FROM MY OWN (THIS YUUHI'S) LACK OF ABILITY
...!?
THIS CAN'T BE... YOUR HIGHNESS ...!?
THE JAPANESE HEAD OF STATE IS REALLY BOWING HER HEAD TO (APOLOGIZING TO) THE U.S. ARMED FORCES AND US CADETS...!
I CAN'T POSSIBLY EVEN IMAGINE HER BEING REVERENT TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE...
YOUR HIGHNESS... WHAT ON EARTH IS YOUR INTENTION FOR EVEN DOING SUCH A THING ...?

SERGEANT JINGUUJI... MAY I SPEAK TO YOUR SUBORDINATES ?
...
...YES, MA'AM... PLEASE, AS YOU WISH
...YOUR NAME ?
YE-... YES, MA'AM (GASP) !
I'M CADET CHIDZURU SAKAKI !!
GNAF TO!
...SAKAKI KORECHIKA-DONO WAS MY LOYAL RETAINER
HE WAS A GREAT MAN AND AN OUTSTANDING POLITICIAN WITH A SELFLESS SPIRIT WHO ALWAYS WORKED HARD, TOILING OVER THE CONCERNS OF JAPAN'S FUTURE
I SEE ... SO YOU'RE
...?

MY FATHER ...?
IT WAS THE ONE THING I LEARNED IN REGARDS TO KORECHIKA-DONO'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE
ON THIS OCCASION, I AM OVERWHELMED WITH FEELINGS OF REMORSE FOR... YOUR LOSS (HIS PASSING)
I REGRET I CAN ONLY EXPRESS HOW DEEPLY SORRY I AM...
SLIP!..
!...
N-... NO
FATHER... SACRIFICED HIMSELF IN HIS DUTY AS A POLITICIAN WHO SERVED YOUR HIGHNESS AND THE CITIZENS OF THE EMPIRE
HE ACHIEVED HIS LIFE-LONG AMBITION ...
ALL THIS IS MY RESPONSIBILITY ... I CANNOT APOLOGIZE ENOUGH TO YOU
TH-... THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS...

THERE'S NO WAY ...
THERE'S NO WAY YOUR HIGHNESS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ....!
... ...
YOUR WORDS ARE... TOO KIND...
YOU ESPECIALLY HAVE MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES, BECAUSE YOU'RE BEARING HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY AND PROVIDING TREMENDOUS EFFORT... IN THE MIDST OF DEEP SORROW ...
... ...
I... I'M SO SORRY !!
...YES MA'AM !
PLEASE BE BRAVE AND BEAR WITH ME FOR A BIT LONGER

YE-YE-YE-YE-YE-YEEES, MA'AM (GASP)!
...YOUR HIGHNESS... DO YOU KNOW MY FATHER...?
YOU'RE TAMASE GENJOUSAI-DONO'S DAUGHTER, ARE YOU
カチ
SCARED STIFF
フチ
FROZEN
IN REGARDS TO THIS CURRENT GREAT WAR, JAPAN'S STRATEGIC POSITION IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT CAUSE... THE POLITICAL BACKGROUND SURROUNDING OUR COUNTRY IS EXCEEDINGLY COMPLEX
THEREFORE, YOUR FATHER IS OFTEN PUT IN A HARSH AND SOLEMN POSITION
YES... I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE UNDERSECRETARY SEVERAL TIMES, WHEN HE CAME TO JAPAN
I HEAR HIS POST AS UNDERSECRETARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IS HARD WORK ...YOU MUST WORRY ABOUT HIM, I SUPPOSE
...YES
NONETHELESS, THE PUBLIC INTERESTS BROUGHT TO JAPAN THROUGH YOUR FATHER'S DILIGENT EFFORTS ARE
NOT SMALL AT ALL
I THINK VERY HIGHLY OF YOUR FATHER
I'M SURE YOU DO, TOO
...!

...THAT'S WHY
YOU ARE SERVING IN THE U.N. FORCES, PERHAPS ...?
AH...
YOU ARE WORTHY FOR CHOOSING THE PATH OF SERVING THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY ALONG WITH YOUR FATHER
I ALSO GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS ON THIS OCCASION ...
... ... !
Y- YES, MA'AM !!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH... YOU'RE HIGHNESS !
AND YOU ARE ...
YES, MA'AM ! I'M CADET YOROI MIKOTO !
I SEE ...
YOU'RE SAKON-DONO'S ...

SO THE FACT THAT SECTION CHIEF YORO... IS WITH THE INTELLIGENCE MINISTRY, IS KEPT A SECRET FROM MIKOTO, AFTER ALL, I GUESS...
SO THEN... WHAT WOULD MIKOTO THINK IF SHE KNEW THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT ...
...EEH ! IS THAT SO ...
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FATHER'S TRADING COMPANY IS A DESIGNATED SUPPLIER OF THE MINISTRIES IN THE CASTLE ...
AND HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED ON COUNTLESS OCCASIONS BY THE IMPERIAL CASTLE
IS THAT SO ...
IF I MAY SAY SO, YOUR HIGHNESS ... I THINK MY FATHER WILL BE PLEASED
WHENEVER I MEET WITH YOUR FATHER
BECAUSE I GET TO HEAR HIS STRANGE TALES AND BANTER ABOUT HIS JOURNEYS ABROAD
IT ALLOWS ME TO WIPE AWAY THE DAILY ANXIETY
...YOUR FATHER IS IN A HIGH PRESSURE POSITION AND ALWAYS TRAVELS ABROAD
ON THIS OCCASION, I AM OVERWHELMED WITH SHAME... THAT A SITUATION LIKE THIS HAS HAPPENED, AND YOU AND YOUR FATHER ARE KEPT APART
PLEASE, NO, YOUR HIGHNESS ...! THIS SORT OF STUFF IS IN NO WAY ...!

THAT IS... I... I AM A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS ARMED FORCES, BUT STILL...
IF I CAN BE OF SERVICE TO YOUR HIGHNESS, THAT IS AN HONOR FOR ME !
EVEN THOUGH THE JOBS ARE DIFFERENT... I BELIEVE THE SAME GOES FOR MY FATHER
... ...
IT DOES WORRY ME GREATLY, THOUGH... SO, PLEASE BEAR WITH ME FOR A WHILE
...YES, MA'AM !
SNAP

...AND YOUR NAME?
...I AM CADET AYAMINE KEI
ALTHOUGH THE TITLE MAY BE A DECORATION, I AM... THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE EMPERIAL ARMY
!
...
AND AS SUCH, I HAVE BEEN EDUCATED FOR THAT PURPOSE
BE THAT AS IT MAY, RIGHT NOW... NO ONE ELSE IS MAKING ALL OF YOU CADETS PROCEED TO THE BATTLEFIELD BUT MYSELF
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHETHER IT'S THE RIGHT PATH OF COMMAND OR NOT...
THOUGH I HAVE STUDIED UNDER SEVERAL OFFICERS, THUS FAR
I AM CERTAIN SOME OF THOSE TEACHERS ARE ASSESSING THIS PRESENT SITUATION WITH SADNESS
...
...

THE PEOPLE SHOULD DO WHAT THEY CAN FOR THE COUNTRY
AND THE COUNTRY... SHOULD DO WHAT IT CAN FOR THE PEOPLE
...
...!?
!!
...THIS IS THE TEACHING OF A CERTAIN MENTOR
AND THESE WORDS WILL ALWAYS BE IN MY HEART
THERE HAS NOT BEEN A TIME WHEN I FELT THESE WORDS HAD A GREATER... AND HEAVIER MEANING THAN NOW
...!
A MENTOR... LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AYAMINE WAS HER HIGHNESS'S TRAINER...?
DOES THAT MEAN, THERE'S A CONNECTION TO THE LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND CAPTAIN SAGIRI, TOO? ...HOW MUCH DOES HER HIGHNESS' KNOW?

...
THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, I AM TRULY ASHAMED TO FACE THOSE TEACHERS
HOWEVER, BECAUSE I DO NOT INTEND TO BE CONTENT WITH MYSELF WITH THE CRITICISMS OF A FOOLISH YOUNGER BROTHER
WILL YOU PLEASE BEAR WITH ME FOR THE SHORT WHILE ?
...YES, MA'AM
... ...

HOWEVER... PLEASE ALLOW ME SAY THIS MUCH, ONCE AGAIN
IN THE COURSE OF EVENTS, BECAUSE I WAS ABLE TO EXCHANGE WORDS WITH YOU FREELY... IT'S POINTLESS TO SPEAK MUCH ABOUT THINGS, HERE
CADET SHIROGANE
...YES, MA'AM

MY SINCERE THANKS
GUIP!
TO YOU ...
AH ...
...GO OBTAIN THE ANSWER FROM A CERTAIN SOMEONE
... ...
THAT SHOULD GIVE YOU A CLUE ...
EH ...?
NOW THEN, EVERYONE... PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR TAKING UP A BIT OF YOUR TIME
...WITH OUR LONGSTANDING FIGHT WITH THE BETA... AND A WAR SITUATION THAT HAS NOT IMPROVED FOR THE BETTER
THE HEART OF OUR NATION HAS BECOME IMPOVERISHED AND UNDERMINED
BUT, MY CURRENT POWER IS NOT SUITABLE TO EVEN HEAL IT
THE END RESULT... WHILE I'M BENEFITTING FROM THE TREMENDOUS EFFORTS FROM ALL OF YOU, I'VE BECOME A BURDEN
I AM KEENLY AWARE OF MY INADEQUATENESS AND INEXPERIENCE ...

...!
I WANT TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE
I WANT TO PROTECT THE SOUL THAT EXISTS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE... THE COUNTRY
BUT STILL
BUT, THAT'S NOT IT... SHE (THIS PERSON) AND MEIYA HAVE THIS NOTION THAT...
...!
WHEN SHE SAYS, "THE COUNTRY," I THOUGHT IT SOMEHOW HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE GOVERNMENT ...
I ... SEE
... ...
EVENTUALLY, THEY WILL BE JUDGED FOR THEIR CRIMES ACCORDING TO THE LAW, AND WILL RECEIVE SUITABLE PUNISHMENT...
HAVE COMMITTED A HEAVY CRIME BY KILLING THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN
CERTAINLY, THOSE PEOPLE ...
FOR THOSE WHO DASHED INTO THIS UPRISING, THEIR SENTIMENT WAS TOO STRONG, I IMAGINE
AND BECAUSE THEIR SENTIMENT WAS GENUINE... THEY COULD NOT HELP BUT TAKE A STAND
HOLD THIS SENTIMENT, AS I DO, NO DOUBT I BELIEVE THAT IS SO
ALL THE PEOPLE ...

BECAUSE THE ONE WHO SHOULD TAKE FUTURE BLAME IS ME...
BUT, PLEASE, I WANT YOU TO SOMEHOW BE MAGNANIMOUS IN REGARDS TO ONLY THEIR SPIRIT
HOWEVER... THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO OVERLOOK THE SITUATION ANY FURTHER
NOW MORE THAN EVER, THOSE IN THE POSITION OF HUMAN DEFENSE... MUST NEVER JOIN THE RANKS OF THE DEAD
I WILL PERSUADE THE UPRISERS, PERSONALLY
WHA-...!?
!!
MAJOR... I AM HEAVILY AWARE OF BOTH YOUR SITUATION AND OPINION
IT'S ALL RIGHT, TSUKUYOMI
MAJOR ! WATCH YOUR MOUTH !!!
I KNOW IT'S RUDE OF ME TO SAY THIS, BUT... I THINK YOU'RE UTTERLY INSANE !
WITH ALL DUE RESPECTS, YOUR HIGHNESS ! I CANNOT APPROVE THAT PROPOSAL

YOUR... YOUR HIGHNESS !!?
I'M NOT OBLIGATED TO ABIDE BY YOUR ORDERS ...YOU SHOULD ALLOW IT, SOMEHOW
HOWEVER, FOR THIS SITUATION... BECAUSE I'M NOT SEEKING YOUR APPROVAL
TSUKU-YOMI
FETCH THE TAKEMIKAZUCHI !!
RUSS
SSTLE

AND YET
—
WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES, EACH WITH THEIR MOTIVES, DOING AS THEY PLEASE ...
I DOUBT THAT THE HUMAN RACE WILL DEFEAT THE BETA IN SOLIDARITY, TO SAY THE LEAST ...!
...THAT IS TRUE, HUH
—
THAT'S SOMETHING EVEN A CHILD CAN UNDERSTAND, RIGHT !?
IF THE HUMAN RACE LOSES, THERE WON'T BE ANY FUTURE FOR JAPAN, TOO

NOTES: THE DIALOG ON THIS PAGE WAS AGAIN RATHER STRAIGHTFORWARD, EXCEPT FOR THE LAST TWO BALLOONS OF TAKERU'S SPEECH, WHERE I TOOK A BIT OF LIBERTY.

I PRESENT HERE A MORE LITERAL TAKE.

AS JAPAN'S SHOGUN, AS THE PERSON ENTRUSTED WITH THE COUNTRY
I WISH TO EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE ...
TO THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES... AND TO ALL THE OFFICERS IN THE UNITED STATES FORCES WHO ARE IN THIS PLACE
BEING THAT OUR COUNTRY'S PRESENT CHAOS ...
RUSTLE...
ORIGINATES COMPLETELY FROM MY OWN (THIS YUUHI'S) LACK OF ABILITY
NO WAY... YOUR HIGHNESS ...!?
...!?
YOUR HIGHNESS... WHAT ON EARTH IS YOUR INTENTION, TO GO SO FAR TO DO SUCH A THING ...?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EVEN IMAGINE IT BECAUSE IT WOULD BE AWFUL/DREADFUL/AWE-INSPIRING FOR THE JAPANESE PEOPLE...
NO WAY, THE JAPANESE HEAD OF STATE IS LOWERING HER HEAD TO (APOLOGIZING TO) THE U.S.-ARMED FORCES AND US CADETS...!

NOTES: THE DIALOG ON THIS PAGE WAS, YET AGAIN, RATHER STRAIGHTFORWARD, EXCEPT FOR THE SECOND SENTENCE OF TAKERU'S THOUGHTS. THERE WERE TOO MANY WAYS TO INTERPRET IT, IMHO. I BELIEVE MY FINAL TAKE WORKS BEST, GIVEN THE SITUATION.